



CALPEEK

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THE AG's BATTLE: DAN LUNGREN vs. TOM UMBERG.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK will take a brief look at the battle for Attorney General...

...In most all polls, 1st term incumbent AG Dan Lungren(R) leads his Demo rival, Assemblyman Tom Umberg of Orange Co., by a scant 10-15 pts., and gets no more than 35-37% of those surveyed. This is not good news for Lungren and if Umberg remains competitive in fundraising, this could mean trouble for the AG...

...As might be expected, Lungren has gotten all of the better law & order endorsements (CCPOA, PORAC, 39 DAs, 46 county sheriffs, 210 police chiefs), while Umberg has had to settle with endorsements from smaller groups of police & sheriffs. And just recently Lungren got very good news when the CA Crime Index was released, showing crimes down in 6 categories. So with this good news, *why isn't Lungren killing Umberg?* Sources suspect Lungren's GOP base isn't as solid right now as it should be, especially among pro-gun and anti-tax conservatives. Remember, Lungren supported a number of gun bills in the Legislature and was a big supporter of Prop. 172, the 1/2 cent sales tax for cops. Both stands have angered hardliners. In addition, it's been Gov. Pete Wilson(R) who has hogged most of the **crime headlines**, not Lungren...

...As for Umberg, he recently announced a switch in campaign consultants -- naming veteran Richie Ross to replace Clint Reilly, who didn't have the time to give Umberg because of his daily involvement in the Brown campaign. With Ross, the Umberg campaign feels they have a savvy consultant who can perhaps pull the big upset of '94. On issues, look for Umberg to note big differences with Lungren on choice, the environment and education. But for Umberg to have a chance, he needs help from the CA Teachers Assn. (CTA), which has Lungren on its "most hated list" (because of his

support for vouchers and for his office's prosecution of former Schools Chief Bill Honig). So far CTA has given Umberg about \$35,000, but that's not very much in this day & age. If CTA puts up \$200-300,000, that would be a sign that they are serious about taking Lungren out. Will that happen??? Stay tuned...

LEGISLATIVE RACES: FALL ELECTION BATTLES.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK concentrates on the battle to control the STATE ASSEMBLY. Here's our brief update on *targets of opportunity*...

...Demos currently control the CA Assembly with 47 members, while the GOP has 33 members in this 80-member legislative body. Of the 80 current members, 23 are retiring or running for something else. And while both Demos and Republicans have **targeted** incumbents, most sources agree the real battle for control of the Assembly will depend on how well each side does with these 23 OPEN seats. Predictions on the final outcome ranges from a net Demo gain of 1 to a net GOP gain of 4-5...

● **The Top GOP Targets** - If you're drawing a list of the most vulnerable Demo incumbents, 9 out of 10 insiders would include Betty Karnette(54th A.D.), Bob Epple(56th A.D.) and Tom Connolly(77th A.D.)...

● **The Demo Watch List** - Included on the watch list are incumbents Debra Bowen(53rd A.D.), Julie Bornstein(80th A.D.), Margaret Snyder(25th A.D.) and Dede Alpert(78th A.D.). Even though most of these Demo Assemblywomen are considered strong, you have to keep your eyes on these incumbents because of the *registration numbers*...

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● **The Top Demo Targets** - On this list we include incumbents Bill Hoge(44th A.D.) and newly elected Assemblyman Bruce McPherson(27th A.D.)...

● **The GOP Watch List** - Newly elected Assemblyman James Rogan(43rd A.D.), Curt Pringle(68th A.D.) and Larry Bowler(10th A.D.) are on CAL-PEEK's watch list...

● **Open Seat Warfare** - Of the 23 seats without an incumbent, most sources agree that there are 5 battles which are rated a *toss up*. These include the 17th A.D. (Machado-D vs. Simas-R), 24th A.D. (Foglia-D vs. Cunneen-R), 30th A.D. (Batrich-D vs. Setencich-R), 69th A.D. (Metzler-D vs. Morrissey-R) and the 76th A.D. (Davis-D vs. Trettin-R). Demos currently occupy 3 of the 5 toss-up open seats...

...Of the remaining 18 open seats, sources say 12 are likely to *remain unchanged* in terms of party control, meaning Demos will have a 7-to-5 edge. Among the remaining 6 seats where there is *some doubt*, here the GOP has an edge, 4-to-2. These seats include the 20th A.D. (leans D), 28th A.D. (leans D), 29th A.D. (leans R), 33rd A.D. (leans R), 34th A.D. (leans R) and the 35th A.D. (leans R). Of these seats, the 35th is now in Demo hands. Next week we'll start to get into these races in more detail. Stay tuned...

29th S.D. SPECIAL: IT'S MOUNTJOY vs. MILLER.

With the special election to replace Frank Hill(R-Whittier) in the State Senate set for Sept. 13, some insiders are now picking Assemblyman Richard Mountjoy(R-Arcadia) to *edge out* Diamond Bar Councilman Gary Miller for the GOP nomination in what may turn out to be a very close and a very low voter turnout special, perhaps only 13-15% of those eligible will cast ballots. And it's doubtful that the eventual winner will avoid a Nov. 8th runoff, unless there's a total collapse by either Miller, Mountjoy or the other serious GOP candidate, Assemblyman Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar. And that's not likely, considering the kind of money that the 3 are spending...

...Why do insiders lean toward Mountjoy, and not Miller, who is spending more? A poll by Sacto-based Meta Information Services (commissioned by the Conservative Opportunity Society, a conservative PAC controlled by John Stoos) shows Mountjoy at 32.2%, Miller at 14.8% and Horcher at 11.4%. The undecided

was at 22.6% and Demo Sandy Hester was at 13.4%, with other candidates at 5.6%. This poll was taken Aug. 29-30, among a sample of 200 absentee voters and 300 non-absentee voters...

...In terms of absentee ballots, as of 9/6, there were 34,146 requests for absentee ballots; 29,775 were mailed out; and 11,600 had been returned. That means close to 39% of those mailed have been returned. Stay tuned...

U.S. HOUSE RACES: FALL ELECTION BATTLES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on various U.S. House races...

● **46th C.D.** - In what seems like the never-ending and always uphill battle to unseat veteran conservative U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan of Orange Co., Demo Mike Farber has brought in a new campaign manager (Diane Gould), a new fundraiser (Jill Barad) and a new spin ("Outlook Bright for Farber Campaign."). Problem is that the establishment Demos in Orange Co. *aren't* impressed. Not yet, anyway. Yes, Orange Co. Demos would dearly love to "Beat Bob," but it's not likely in 1994. That's still the general feeling with 8 weeks left in the campaign. Too many factors working against Farber, such as a tentative *write-in campaign* by the Demo Farber beat in the primary, Robert Banuelos; and the fact that the #1 priority for Orange Co. Demos is the election of Mike Metzler to Tom Umberg's 69th A.D. seat. FYI: there is a major registration drive underway in the 69th A.D. and this will increase Demo numbers in the 46th C.D...

● **36th C.D.** - There's little doubt that freshman Demo U.S. Rep. Jane Harman will have her hands full contending with the very aggressive Susan Brooks in this 42% Demo/42% GOP So. Bay district in one of the more affluent areas of L.A. Co. Brooks, a Rancho Palos Verdes councilwoman, and Harman seem to share only one thing in common: they're both *pro-choice*. But aside from that, these two are total opposites on the key issues. But for Brooks to capture this seat she must demonstrate an ability to raise a huge war chest --- and this will only make her competitive, because Harman has been compared to Gray Davis when it comes to raising money (and she's got very deep pockets as well). So money is the key as far as Brooks is concerned. Right now Harman and Brooks

are sparring over **crime** and **guns**. The Nat'l Rifle Assn. (NRA) has organized a Members Council of the So. Bay to work for Brooks. That's both good and bad news. Dedicated ground troops can make a real difference in a grass-roots campaign, but being publicly supported by the NRA also has its down side too and polling in the 36th C.D. suggests heavy support for stronger gun control laws. And Harman has won a key endorsement from the So. Bay Police Chiefs. That's a great endorsement, considering that crime is still regarded as the #1 issue in Calif. politics. As for the recently approved **crime bill**, Harman was a strong supporter, while Brooks was opposed. FYI: Brooks is still recovering from a very bitter primary and her GOP opponent, Ron Florance, will *not* endorse her. Brooks needs a united GOP to win, and with Harman cutting *deeply* into that base, to the displeasure of a number of Republicans, it would seem that Brooks has an uphill but not totally impossible fight. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: NEW AND TOUGH HANDGUN BILLS SURVIVE AND ARE SENT TO WILSON'S DESK.

Editor's note: Sources estimate that about 72 different gun bills were introduced in this last legislative session. But only a small number survived the legislative process. Here's a brief update...

...With the defeat of Sen. David Roberti's generic ban on *assault weapons* (SB 46X) and the defeat of his large ammo clip/magazine bill, one might have thought from news media accounts that all the important gun bills were defeated by the always tough **gun lobby**. But that's not the case. It's just that many of these bills did not have the high profile of Roberti's proposals...

...For example: on the governor's desk are two very tough bills -- SB 1278 (Gary Hart), which if signed will ban firearms ownership for those persons convicted of domestic violence where a restraining order is in place; and AB 1333 (Mike Gotch), which bans law enforcement groups from selling confiscated guns, as is now the practice in a number of jurisdictions...

...And then there was a package of about 5-6 bills by various authors which toughen existing gun laws. Among the new bills, one will in effect make it a felony to be in possession of a handgun which is registered in someone else's name. Another bill will make it more difficult for juveniles to possess handguns and yet another bill gives the AG more authority in licensing

gun dealers. While many of these bills are technical in nature, when combined with existing Calif. gun laws, they give the State one of the most comprehensive set of laws in the U.S. Three of the five bills are sponsored by AG Dan Lungren, which made it difficult for GOP lawmakers to oppose these bills. The question now is whether Gov. Wilson will sign them? Stay tuned...

BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE: ADDITIONAL PROPS.

Editor's note: During the closing hours of the just ended legislative session, lawmakers **added** three(3) additional constitutional amendments to the Nov. 8th ballot. Here's a brief report...

- **Prop. 189** - If approved, this measure would expand the no-bail provisions to include *felony sexual assault crimes*. And approval also will mean that Calif. can apply for new U.S. funds (under the new crime bill). Turns out that the State was not in compliance with the no-bail provisions of the new crime bill and that's why this constitutional amendment was hurried through. The YES on 189 contact is Dan Eaton at (916)445-8514...

- **Prop. 190** - This constitutional amendment deals with the CA Commission on Judicial Performance. This is a controversial measure because it would drastically overhaul the commission and allow the panel to remove, retire, suspend, publicly or privately admonish or censure a judge. The Commission was established back in 1960 and basically operates behind closed doors. The panel currently consists of 5 judges, 2 attorneys and 2 public members. Under this amendment, the commission would include 6 public members, 3 judges and 2 attorneys. And much of the serious stuff about judges and cases of alleged judicial misconduct would be *open to the public*. The YES on 190 contact is Meg Bushman in Speaker Willie Brown's office (916)445-8077. Signing the NO on 190 argument was State Sen. Quentin Kopp (415)952-5666...

- **Prop. 191** - In 1988, Calif. eliminated all but about 40 justice courts - and those which remain are mostly in Calif.'s rural counties. Prop. 191 would eliminate the remaining 40 JP courts by converting them into municipal courts. The YES on 191 contact is Michael Belote (916)441-5050. The NO on 191 contact is Gary Wesley (408)995-3220. Stay tuned...

BRULTE TO ADDRESS CA LINCOLN CLUB SEPT. 16.

GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte will address members of the CA Lincoln Club (San Gabriel Valley chpt) at 7:30 a.m., Sept. 16, Industry Hills Sheraton. For info & RSVPs, contact Natalie Blanning at (818)249-4205...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **CCPOA Endorsements** - The powerful CA Correctional Peace Officers Assn.(prison guards) has announced its '94 endorsements. Not a lot of surprises. CCPOA supports Gov. Wilson(R); AG Lungren(R); Davis(D) for LG; Torres(D) for Insurance Comm.; Fong(R) for treasurer; Jones(R) for SOS; and Connell(D) for controller. FYI: the last endorsement is not surprising at all when you learn that GOP Controller candidate Tom McClintock told the CCPOA that if he's elected he'd cut the cost of housing convicts. He complained that in Calif. it costs \$22,000 annually per convict, compared to just \$15,000 in Texas...

- **Ballot Designation Blues** - Just how important is a candidate's ballot designation or occupation? *Critical*, given that most voters don't do much research before voting. And what about the ballot designation "incumbent" or something similar? It's not great, given the *anti-incumbency mood* of voters: What are candidates doing? Take U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo(R-Tracy). His ballot title: **rancher**. Next case: GOP assembly candidate Brian Setencich of Fresno. In the primary he listed is ballot designation as "councilman." It now reads, "councilman/farmer." The next case perhaps the most interesting: Assemblyman Terry Friedman, who is running for Superior Court Judge against trial attorney John Moriarity, listed his occupation in the primary as "Member of the Calif. State Assembly, 41st District." Now he wants to change it to, "Law professor/law-maker." Friedman will be in the 3rd Dist. Court of Appeals/Sacto on Sept. 8th defending his ballot designation. We'll keep you posted...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Scott Shafer, COS to CA Controller Gray Davis and press secretary to former S.F. Mayor Art Agnos, has joined S.F.-based Staton-Hughes as a partner...

- A sad note: 75-year-old Harold Dobbs, a longtime S.F. Co. Supervisor, died after a long battle with leukemia on Aug. 14. R.I.P...

- Harry Hufford, former L.A. Co. CAO and CAO of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, has affiliated with the L.A. office of Kidder, Peabody & Co...

- Insurance Comm. John Garamendi's longtime press secretary, Bill Schulz, has been named Deputy PA Director at the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. Garamendi's deputy press secretary, Elena Stern, has been name acting press secretary...

- Steve Telliano has taken a leave from his CA State Assembly job to become press spokesperson/spin doctor for AG Dan Lungren's reelection cmt...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

- **CAMPAIGN ORGANIZERS** - Calif. League of Conservation Voters, the State's largest PAC for the environment, seeks field organizers for legislative races. Positions require excellent communications and organizational skills. Campaign experience preferred. May require temporary relocation. Drivers license, car helpful. \$300 to \$500 per week. Call Luke Breit (916)448-7867...

- **FOR HIRE**, Peter J. Moran, graphic designer. Since 1985, have produced art and graphic design for advertising and corporate communications in Calif. I've created direct-mail, signag and support materials for some of Calif.'s most influential political consultants for the past 5 years. My use of imagery is powerful and current; my award-winning designs are cost effective and timely. Call (510)283-4620 to discuss your needs. (Nonpartisan designer, 1990 Pollie Award for Best Persuasive Direct-Mail Piece, "Clay TV."...

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